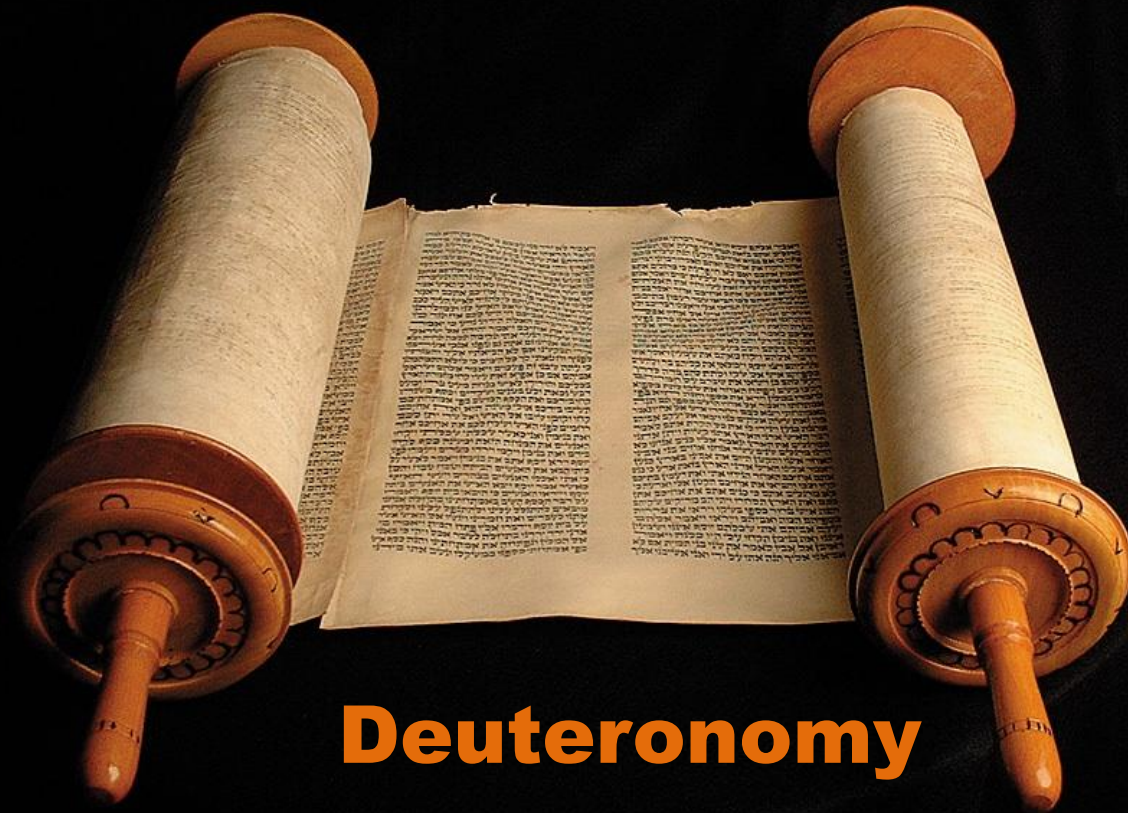


Encountering the Old Testament



Deuteronomy

Moses on the plains of Moab

“No man ever addressed an audience under more impressive circumstances than did Moses, and no audience ever had greater reason to heed to the words of wisdom spoken in their hearing.”

“God spoke by Moses” pg 129

Who was Moses?

- ***“He was lawgiver, judge, warrior, prophet, priest, and poet.***
- ***To him, more than any other man, belongs the credit for molding and leading the Hebrew people into a nation.***
- ***A lesser figure could not have accomplished this great undertaking.”***

Who was Moses?

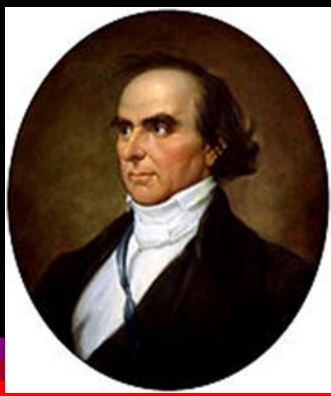
- ***“Before his departure he was able to look upon a mighty people ready now to enter the Promised Land where they could begin to fulfill their high mission as God’s chosen people.”***
 - ***Dispossess the wicked Canaanites (Gen 15:16).***
 - ***Fulfil the land promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3).***
- ***Hester, “The Heart of Hebrew History” pg 136***

What is Moses doing?

- He has to work on their hearts.
- He has to *motivate them to trust in God and cooperate with Him!*
- *“As we work, God works. When we work, God works.”*
- *30 times instructed: “Go in and possess the land which the Lord your God gives you.”*

Scriptural promises:

- **“Commit your works to the Lord, trust in Him, and He *will act*” (Ps 37:5).**
- **“The heart of man plans his way, but the *Lord establishes His steps*” (Prov 16:9).**
- ***When we do what we can do, God does what only He can do!***



Daniel Webster



“If we work upon marble, it will perish; if work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble to dust; but if we work on men’s immortal minds, if we impress on them with high principles, the just fear of God and the love their fellowman, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity.”

Deuteronomy (1-34)

BACKGROUND:



- Three personal farewell addresses by Moses. (Deut 4:1) “I teach you.”
- 48 passages from the book are used 81 times in the NT.
- 2nd most quoted book in the NT, and the most quoted book by Jesus.
- Contains the Greatest Commandment of all as per Jesus -- Deut 6!

Deuteronomy (1-34)

BACKGROUND:

- A “new” Israel was about to enter the promised land, so they needed a **covenant renewal ceremony**.
- Exciting yet *tragic! Why?*
- Moses was **about to die and pass leadership off to Joshua** (See Deut 1:3, last month of 40th year).
 - 31:9, 24-26 Moses preserved written copies.
- Three **farewell speeches** made by Moses:
 - // 1:1-4:43 // 4:44-26:19 // 27:1-31:30.



Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy:



- **Title: A copy or repeat.** However, the book is much more than a simple second giving of the law.
- **Second Law:** Why?
 - Because the **first generation rebelled** and died in the wilderness.
 - Now a new generation (40 years later) needed to not only claim the covenant privileges and promises but they also needed to **embrace it laws and holy expectations as well.**
 - The covenant established on Mt. Sinai needs to be renewed in the plains of Moab.

Deuteronomy (1-36)

Significance of Deuteronomy:

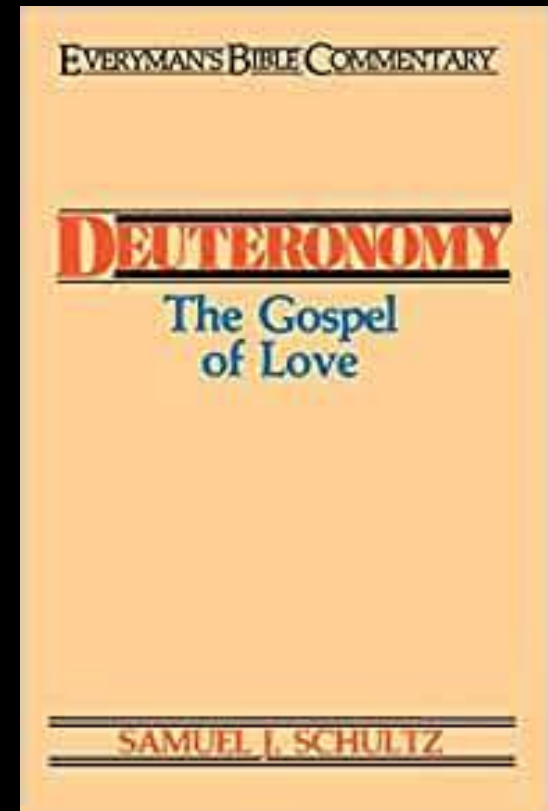


- “Deuteronomy becomes the nation’s **formative constitution**. It is a covenant renewal document, which also prescribed their future relationship with God, with each other, and with surrounding nations.
- **The expression of Israel’s relationship to God in the form of a covenant is the most important OT expression of Israelite faith. This is the distinguishing characteristic of Hebrew religion.”**
(ETOT, p.154).

Deuteronomy (1-34)

- **Importance:** Contents of Deuteronomy:

- Most important book in the OT from the standpoint of God's revelation. Ex. Vows for a marriage!
- From a life and death perspective, what has been learned from the past 40 years?
- Better title: "The Gospel of Love."
 - Love is over and over again the heart of the message.
 - Key to everything!



Deuteronomy (1-36)

Significance of Deuteronomy:

- “Deuteronomy is the culminating expression of the Mosaic covenant....Here, as nowhere else in the Pentateuch, the underlying principle of the law is *love*, which characterizes the relationship between God and His people.”



4:37

5:10

6:1,5

7:8,9,12,13

10:12,15,18,19

11:1,13,22

13:3,6

15:16

19:9

23:5

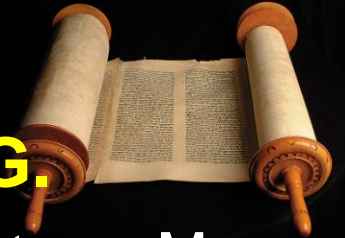
30:6,16,20

33:3,12

- When Israel disobeys and breaks the covenant, they are breaking not just the commandments of God but the very heart of God. It is not broken tables of law but *ruptured chambers of the heart* (Mt.22:35f; Jn.14:15).

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview



1. Historical Prologue (1:6-4:43): Faithful KING.

- The **first Moses speech** presents a theology of history. Moses reviews the past to prepare the nation for future obedience.
- The past illustrates both the **benefits of obedience** (2:21-3:22; 2:24,31; 3:1-2) as well as the **dangers of disobedience** (1:26-46).
- No one is exempt from the demands of **covenant obedience**. The nation's obedient successes (2:24-3:20) are immediately followed by Moses' sinful failure (3:21-29; cf. Num. 20).
- **Only the LORD can grant victories so He should be trusted implicitly** (2:33; 3:3).
- Moses' review of past obedience and disobedience prepares the nation for his **exhortation to future obedience** (4:1f, 9,23).

FIRST SPEECH: the great king's faithfulness (1:6–4:43)

By reviewing the recent past, Moses sought to prepare the nation to obey God in the future.

**Moses reviewed both the...
victories and failures
of Israel.**

VICTORIES

- **protection from Edom**
- **success over Heshbon and Bashan**

FAILURES

- **rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea**
- **Moses' sin at Meribah**

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview

Core Stipulations (4:44-26:19): Expectations.



- The **second Moses speech** establishes the core covenant stipulations as normative for all Israelites who desire to live in the presence of a Holy God.
- They are essentially the Sinai covenant rehearsed and applied to Israel's future life in Canaan.
- There are two primary divisions:
 - **1. General stipulations** about covenant law (5-11); and,
 - **2. Specific applications** of that law to future Israelite society and culture (12-26).

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview

Core Stipulations (4:44-26:19): Expectations.



A. General stipulations (5-11):

- The general section (5-11) begins with a rehearsal of the 10 commandments b/c the new generation must accept the Sinai covenant on their own.
- The primary purpose of this section was *not to inform* them *but rather to form* them spiritually.
- Monotheism is at the forefront of their theology. “Hear (shema), Oh Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One” (Dt.6:4). This simple statement stresses the unity of God, the consistency of God, and the exclusivity of God. He alone is God and He is the same in every era, every, generation, and every location.

**“Hear, o Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one”
(Dt 6:4)**

The Shema answers two questions:

1. How many gods are there?

Yahweh is the only God in existence.

2. What type of God is Yahweh?

There is no duplicity in his character: he acts the same today as he did yesterday.

second speech:
the covenant way of life (4:44–26:19)
Deuteronomy 5–26 has two **sections**.

5–11
general statement
about the covenant law



12–26
specific application of
that law to future
Israelite society

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview

Core Stipulations (4:44-26:19): Expectations.



General stipulations (5-11):

- There are two primary responses expected from Israel in light of who the LORD is:
 - **Fear** (5:29; 6:2,13,24; 10:12,20) &
 - **Love** (5:10; 6:1,5; 7:9,12,13; 10:12; 11:1,13,22).
- This helps us readily see how Jesus could sum up the covenant as He did (Mt. 22:35-37).

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview

Core Stipulations (4:44-26:19): Expectations.



B. Specific Applications (12-26):

- The specific applications tend to highlight how the covenant law, privileges, and obligations relate to Israel's new situation in the Promised Land.
- There is a wide range of law (moral, civil, ceremonial, social, etc) intermixed throughout this section.
- "Covenant faithfulness is not just for abstract religious observances, but for everyday life" (ETOT, p.146). *** Just as God is one in every way and everywhere, so must His children live in consistent obedience in every area and aspect of their daily lives.
- The arrangement of 12-26 on the surface appears haphazard and beyond systematic analysis, but this section thematically follows the **Decalogue**. (See diagrams to follow).

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview



3. Core Stipulations (4:44-26:19): Expectations.

B. Specific Applications (12-26):

The Laws of Chapters 12–26

Main Issues	Regarding God	Regarding Humans
Authority	Commandment 1 chapter 12	Commandment 5 16:18–18:22
Dignity	Commandment 2 chapter 12	Commandments 6, 7, 8 19:1–24:7
Commitment	Commandment 3 13:1–14:21	Commandment 9 24:8–16
Rights and Privileges	Commandment 4 14:22–16:17	Commandment 10 24:17–26:15

ETOT, p.147

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview

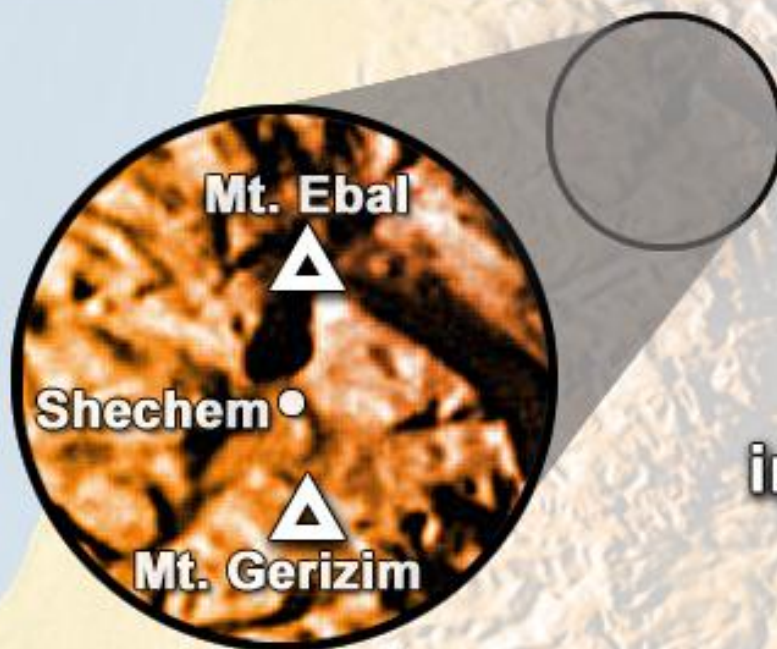
Covenant Sanctions (27:1-31:30):



- The **third and final Moses speech** includes many elements present in ancient covenants:
 - The importance of future covenant ***renewal ceremonies** to take place at Shechem between the mountains of Ebal and Gerazim (27; cf. Josh.8:30-35).
 - The establishment of clear ***blessings & cursings (28).**
 - Moses then reviews their recent victories, predicts their future disobedience, and gives prophecy of their exile and subsequent return (29:1-30:14).
 - Moses places a conscious choice before them and stresses their decision now will impact their future (30:15-20). LIFE OR DEATH IS BEFORE YOU!

third speech: covenant sanctions (27:1–31:30)

Moses instructed the Israelites to renew the covenant at **Shechem** between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim.



The priests were to sing the warnings and the people were to respond antiphonally.

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview

Covenant Sanctions (27:1-31:30):



- The **third and final Moses speech** includes many elements present in ancient covenants:
 - Moses makes provision for the future leadership of the nation (**31**) and passes the baton to Joshua, this is often called a ***succession arrangement** (3, 14-23).
 - To finalize the covenant he ***invokes witnesses** (14-23),
 - guarantees the ***public reading** (9-13) of the agreement, and puts the covenant in ***safe deposit** (24-29).

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview



Apendixes (32:1-34:12):

- **SONG (32):** In Obedience to the command of the LORD (31:19), Moses summarizes the covenant in song (32:1-47).
 - The song is in the form of a covenant lawsuit;
 - The song surveys Israel's past;
 - The song envisions Israel's future rebellion;
 - The song anticipates God's forgiveness and restoration;
 - The song has been called the "prophets phrasebook" for the 7th & 6th century prophets.
 - This song served as the "Bible" for later prophets who prosecuted the nation for covenant rebellion.

appendices (32:1–34:12)

32 Moses' song

a covenant lawsuit intended to motivate the nation to keep its covenant with God

33 Moses' blessing

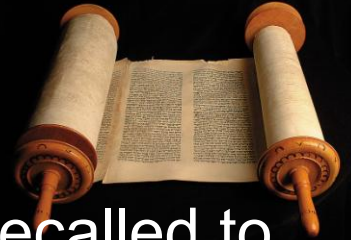
assurance of God's commitment to the nation

34 Moses' death

Moses sees — but does not enter — the land because of his sin at Meribah

Deuteronomy (1-34)

Contents of Deuteronomy: Overview



Appendixes (32:1-34:12):

- **FAILURE (32:48-52)**: Moses' failure is again recalled to spur an obedient response to the song he composed. If he did not receive the promise due to rebellion then neither will they. However, Moses still precedes Jesus (Dt.18:15f).
- **BLESSING (33)**: Moses pronounces a fatherly blessing over each tribe. The blessings ensure God's commitment to them in the distant future as well as in the present.
- **DEATH (34)**: Just as the Genesis story ended in death of the patriarchs great deliverer (Gen.50), so the Moses story ends in death of the nation's great deliverer. From Nebo, Moses symbolically claims the Promised Land for all the forefathers by visually surveying it.
- **GRACE (Mt.17:1f; Mk.9:1f; Lk.9:28f)**: Moses will one day place his feet on the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy (1-34)

- **Importance of Deuteronomy for today.**
 - Deuteronomic instructions are the key to learn *how to express love to God and to our fellowman practically* (Deut 12-26).
 - The *implementation of the law of love in daily life* is as significant for us today as then.
 - Remember the Deuteronomic revelation provides the **basis for the messages of the prophets.**
 - **Moses was the prophet par excellence of the OT, and Jesus was the greater prophet of whom Moses spoke** (Deut. 18: 15-19).



Deuteronomy (1-34)

- **Importance of Deuteronomy for today.**
 - Moses admonishes his hearers “to remember” and “do not forget.” (See Deut 5:15, 7:18, 8:2).
 - Must live with the *realization* of **what God had done for them** (loved them and redeemed them first) so they can *respond properly to God*.
 - And practice **humanitarian principles towards the less fortunate** – the *alien, orphan, and widow* (Deut 10:18). Similar to Jas 1:27.



Deuteronomy

A VASSAL TREATY BETWEEN GOD
AND HIS PEOPLE!

SUNDAY PM

APRIL 17th

NEXT WEEK: HEART DISEASES AND THEIR
CURE!